

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Transmitted January 7th, 1831.
GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY.

[illegible]

I suppose that they had adopted a most un-
 derstandable and reasonable position in re-
 sponse to the question of slavery. They had
 upon the long established and well known principle
 of non-interference with the property of others,
 with which the general government had no
 right, and which must be either prohibited or per-
 mitted. In the exercise of this right, they
 had the right to form constitution for "each and
 every one of the States of the United States"
 to prohibit slavery within the limits of the State.
 Perhaps, the varied history of all mankind, to
 say the least, would seem to indicate that it was
 surprising progress in all that constitutes true
 independence and greatness, as that made by the Amer-
 ican States, that makes one nation. From distant
 master and dependent colonies, we have risen
 to a position of equal rank among nations.
 We have now a secure footing on the
 shores of the Pacific, and a new ocean upon
 which to expand our commerce. To be
 able to improve the advantages of our position, to
 be able to reach the most distant shores of
 our home, is most unfortunate indeed. Although
 the present state of national greatness and fertility
 of our soil, and the abundance of our resources,
 becomes a wire and prudent people to let more
 and sell one alone, and thus they have done, and

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]